

INTIMATIONS.

HONGKONG TRADING

COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Late The Hong Kong & Shanghai S. S. Co., Ltd.)

THE OUTFITTING DEPARTMENT

is now complete with a large and varied stock of

GENTLEMEN'S SUMMER WEAR,

comprising—

Finest Indian Gaiters, VESTS & PANTS,

Silk & Muslin VESTS & PANTS,

Hats, Caps, Shoes, & FISH,

STRAW HATS, SOLE, HATS, FELT

HATS, &c.

HONGKONG TRADING

COMPANY, LIMITED.

Hongkong, 24th May, 1896.

BY APPOINTMENT,

A. S. WATSON & COMPANY

LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED

WATERS.

OUR AERATED WATER MANUFACTORY

is replete with the best machinery, embodying

all the latest improvements in the trade.

The greatest attention has been paid to

appliance for ensuring purity in the water

supply, to ensure which we have adopted a

continuous supply of water with 3,000 gallons

of distilled water daily, and are in

position to compete in quality with the best

English makers. Our Street Water cannot be

surpassed anywhere.

The purest ingredients only are used, and

the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in

the manufacture throughout.

LARGE BOTTLES—SODAS—

C.O.S.T. PORT ORDERS,

whenever practicable, are despatched by first

steamer leaving after receipt of order.

For CASH, PORTS, Waters are packed

and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices,

and the full amount allowed for Freight and

Emphasis when received in good order.

Counterfeit Order Books supplied on application.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is

"DISPENSARY, HONGKONG,"

And all signed messages addressed thus

will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always

kept ready in Stock—

PURE AERATED WATER—

SODA WATER—

LEMONADE—

POTASSIUM WATER—

LITHIA WATER—

SARSAPARILLA WATER—

Tonic Water—

GINGER ALE—

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty,

or greasy, or that appear to have been used

for any other purpose than that of containing

Aerated Water, as such Bottles are never used

again by A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

Hongkong, China, and Manila. [2-10]

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small proportion. If, therefore, it is only

an inconsiderable minority that can decipher

the meaning of Mongolian hieroglyphics

when chosen and ranged by a skillful Chinese

graduate, how many of that minority are likely

to read, through a Coda-translated Or-

dinance, and engage without an attack of

torgeto? We are not speaking in disparage-

ment of Coda, whose translations will bear

comparison with most attempts of a like na-

ture; but desire to point out that it is a task

beyond most men to convey a legal point to

a Chinaman in his own language, both on

account of the cumbersome nature of the

machinery at his disposal and the neglected

state of the Chinaman's education, which

has not refined his intellect to appreciate the

delicacy of legal phraseology. It appears, then,

that Dr. Ho Ka's majority of Chinese is

reducible to a very small number of educa-

ted Chinese to whom the Chinese written lan-

guage is intelligible. Again, of this number,

how many are there who have received an

English education at the Central School? All

those must be deducted from the ranks of

those to whom the translation of Or-

dinance would be of service. After this

elimination, will any one venture to deny

that the English reading part of the popula-

tion (which includes a large number of

Portuguese) is greater than the Chinese

reading part? If no denial is forthcoming,

then Dr. Ho Ka's "majority" argument

rests on his own head. It is our opinion

that, the present system, under which only

those public Ordinances and regulations

which affect the Chinese are translated into

Chinese, is the only reasonable system. If

recourse is had to the practice which

obtained of dressing every law and

regulation in a strange Chinese garb, it is

apparent that the time of one competent

official will have to be entirely devoted to

this interminable and delectable occupation;

at out how?

There are two ways which occur to us

of conveying to the Chinese some knowledge

of the law; the one is by translating the

marginal summaries which accompany every

Ordinance, the other is by constituting the

Registrar-General the legal-adviser of the

Chinese. In either instance, however,

the educated Chinaman took the trouble to

read the marginal notes and his illiterate coun-

tryman bestirred himself to approach the

officer "whose intelligence is as bright as a

mirror." In the case of the Chinaman, as

in that of the Britisher, the probability is

that the four walls of a cell are the first

intimation of the existence of laws; nay, it

even seems that in a British Colony more

care is taken to disseminate an acquaintance

with the law amongst the subjects of a

neighbouring friendly Power than is taken

in the British Isles to bring home to the

populace any knowledge of what is allowed

and what is forbidden by law to be done.

We can but touch on the broader side

of this question. Is it more for the benefit

of humanity and will it help more in the spread

of civilisation that Anglo-Saxon should pre-

vail or Mongolian? If the answer is in

favour of Anglo-Saxon, then we have the in-

terests of civilisation and humanity calling

upon our legislature to make the Mongolian

tongue subordinate to the Anglo-Saxon

tongue whenever it can, without injustice, be

subordinated. Assuming that this is

the duty of Government, how is it that there

exists, if we mistake not, grant-in-aid schools

in which English is not compulsory? There

comes to mind the opinion of a patriotic Bri-

tish naval officer who declared that no action

in our Courts should be conducted except in

English, and advocated the plan in vogue in

a lately acquired French Colony where, he

said, any Chinaman found talking Chinese

in the streets was hailed with punishment.

This appears to be carrying to excess the

principle which we now advocate that both

in and out of season every encouragement

should be given by Government to the learn-

ing of English and no encouragement in the

way of grant-in-aid, to systems which do

not make education in English compulsory

and in Chinese optional. Nowhere have

we seen any apology on behalf of the

Chinese language; it is cumbersome and un-

fitted to express other world ideas; it

takes more time to become acquainted

with than any two European languages, and

slips from the memory with astonishing

rapidity; it even has not the merit of being

spoken by large numbers of the human race,

for the dialects of the Chinese Empire are

more numerous than her provinces, and

Chinese dialects are something different from

English dialects, as dialects go; and though

the written character is represented as that

used by 250 millions of human beings, it is

the truth that only about one-tenth of this

number understands what it sees.

Five Annamites were killed by lightning at

Singapore on the 23rd May.

H.M.S. *Rattler*, Commander J. G. Hough, ar-

rived here yesterday from Amoy.

The visitor to the City Hall Museum last week

numbered 1,375, of whom 112 were Europeans.

The P.M. steamer *Canton* left San Francisco

for Yokohama and Hongkong on the 21st May.

The M.M. steamer *Natal*, with the outward

French mail, left Saigon on Sunday, the 1st

instant at midnight for this port.

We have to acknowledge receipt from the Im-

perial Maritime Customs of the *Customs Gazette*

for the first quarter of the present year.

The Agents (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire) in-

form us that the steamer *Arcton* arrived at

Yokohama on the 21st May, and is expected

to leave for Hongkong on Sunday

the 23rd May.

The Agents (Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co.)

inform us that the steamer *Arcton* arrived at

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